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JUNTA MEMBERS APPEAR BEFORE SUPREME COUNCIL

PY292209 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1510 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 29 Dec (NA) -- Former Commanders of the Army Jorge Videla and Roberto Viola, of the Navy Armando Lambruschini, and of the Air Force Omar Ruben Graffigna appeared before the Armed Forces Supreme Council today. They were notified that a pre-trial inquest has been ordered to investigate their participation in the abuses committed while repressing subversion.

None of the ex-members of the first two military juntas who appeared today before the council gave reporters any explanation of why they were appearing before the Armed Forces Supreme Council. Videla limited himself to saying "good morning" to reporters. However, Viola stated that he did not want to make any statement because he felt that it was "untimely." Lambruschini and Graffigna did not say anything.

Havana on Summary Proceedings

PA300155 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] It was learned in Buenos Aires that a summary proceeding began on Thursday against the members of the three military juntas that ruled Argentina following the 1976 coup d'etat. The summary proceeding was requested to establish responsibilities in the illegal methods and procedures practiced while fighting activities described as subversive. Jorge Rafael Videla, Roberto Viola, and Leopoldo Galtieri have been accused of practicing the illegal methods and procedures.

From another quarter it was learned that Judge (Carlos Oliveri) issued a warrant for the arrest of Reynaldo Bignone, former head of the Argentine military junta, who has been accused in the disappearance of two prisoners.

HAVANA REPORTS ALFONSIN'S REPEAL OF AMNESTY LAW

PA291550 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Last night Argentina President Raul Alfonsin signed legislation, previously approved by Congress, which repeals the amnesty or national pacification law that was issued by the military government in September. All Argentine civilian sectors have rejected the law, believing it to be a self-amnesty by which the militarymen sought to make the people forget about the human rights violations that they had committed during their so-called dirty war against subversion.

It has also been reported from Buenos Aires that dozens of bodies were disinterred Tuesday from secret common graves in several Argentine cemeteries. It was reported that many of the bodies had been shot in the head. Human rights organizations estimate that about 30,000 people have disappeared in Argentina since the 1976 military coup, and it is believed that most of them were killed by members of the police or the Armed Forces.

Other reports indicate that Argentine Federal Judge Jose Vigur has said in Buenos Aires that the prosecution of a civilian by military courts is absolutely illegal and therefore ordered the release of Benjamin Froin, who was arrested and convicted in 1977 for his alleged participation in guerrilla activities. Fifty-six civilians continue to be imprisoned in Argentina following convictions by military courts since 1976.

PRESIDENT FIGUEIREDO'S YEAR-END MESSAGE

PY300229 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2330 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Year-end message by Brazilian President Joao Baptista de Figueiredo delivered over national radio and television network from Brasilia at 2330 GMT 29 Dec 83 -- recorded]

[Text] Brazilians:

The world has again lived through difficult days during this year which is about to end. To a greater or lesser degree, inflation continues to devastate most of the nations. The causes of this widespread and persistent situation are explained by different economic theories. All of the causes for inflation are somehow related to the growing demands imposed on the state by the economic, social, and political circumstances that are characteristic of our times.

To meet these demands, as a general rule we must face future challenges. [Passage indistinct] a situation in which no reporter would dare say that the modern state is is inflationary.

I do not think that inflation is a calamity, and it is incorrect to talk of a structural or essentially inflationary state. I am convinced that it is possible to overcome the overall crisis that is afflicting the international community in the economic and financial order.

I am also convinced, however, that all these problems common effort. The internal situation in each country requires reform. For this reform to yield a desirable effect, an urgent substantial reform in the international financial system must be promoted.

All nations are suffering from the effects of inflation, though not to the same degree. The inflationary burden shouldered by the less developed or less industrialized nations is much too heavy. Solidarity among nations demands better treatment for those economically weaker nations, particularly [words indistinct] because of their extreme poverty, under conditions that are incompatible with human dignity.

Domestically, Brazil is courageously and realistically facing the inflationary spiral. No one is unaware of the fact that it is impossible to live with a continuously increasing inflation, especially when it is known that today inflation is leaving behind a worrisome wave of unemployment.

The struggle against the inflationary spiral demands the adoption of economically effective measures. Measures that would even distribute the sacrifices among the population, measures which are socially and politically acceptable, measures which would not strangle the economy, measures which would destroy all expectations of the possibility of an increasing inflation, measures which by reversing the expectations would discourage speculators' activities.

The internal debt, accrued by the public sector through the years, forced the adoption of drastic measures of austerity. The decisions adopted to satisfy our commitments abroad for the benefit of our development were equally unfortunate. They are demands which would not exceed our capability provided that normal trade is maintained.

The collapse of this trade, however, has had a negative impact on the servicing of our foreign debt. We have given proof that we are engaged in fulfilling our commitments. We hope to fulfill them; however, as I said before, we will fulfill them by respecting our sovereignty, and without affecting the prosperity of the country. We can add to all this the natural disasters which hit the southern and northeastern regions.

Vast resources had to be channeled toward those regions to help our fellow countrymen who were affected by the scourges of drought and floods. Crop yields in these large areas fell dramatically, to the detriment of everyone, because the people who were directly affected by this situation also had to cope with food shortage. This had immediate effects on the inflation rate.

The tremendous difficulties that arose did not make me change the political course that I set for myself. With confidence in democracy, in democratic inspiration, in the creative capacity of democracy, and in the broad possibilities that democracy offers for solving the most difficult of problems, with unyielding determination I continued with the task of implementing the democratization process. To the new governors elected on 15 November, I guaranteed equal rights with respect to the federal government. I opened the Planalto Palace's doors to all of them. I did not discriminate [words indistinct] federative principle. I maintained the rights of the national Congress. I promoted dialogue and negotiation. I encouraged interparty relations. I promoted the development of democratic life. I guaranteed public liberties. I have struggled to preserve truth as an invaluable good. On some occasions, truthlessness prevailed in some (?minority) sectors, and I had to tolerate it. However, I cannot tolerate freedom to promote violence, to jeopardize personal security, to disrespect either individual or collective property, to abuse the facilities owned by society, or to turn cities into centers of anarchy and disorder.

Tranquillity and order (?must prevail everywhere) to prevent disrespect for individual rights. Social peace and the state of law (?must be preserved and protected).

The presidential succession has turned into an increasingly intense process. Even the election process, whether direct or indirect, has caused an uproar. However, the debate has disregarded a constitutional rule and has sought to impose direct presidential elections. At this stage, when the Electoral College has already been formally designated, rejecting the indirect elections system would basically imply the denial of the legitimacy of a perfectly normal political and juridical action. In addition, no one can question the legitimacy of the presidential election process.

In addition to being inefficient -- Congress would not support an amendent of this constitutional rule -- the campaign for direct elections is now nothing but an instrument to create disturbances. Despite my opposition, the leadership of the Social Democratic Party [PDS] entrusted me with the task of naming a candidate who would succeed me. I was deeply moved by this gesture. This mandate was later confirmed in writing by almost all PDS national congressmen. It appeared to me that I could not reject that mandate.

I tried to scrupulously and democratically fulfill this mission. I took advantage of my business trips to learn the opinion of fellow party members with political constituencies throughout the country. I summoned governors, leaders, fellow party members, and all sorts of political leaders to Brasilia. I sounded out the opinion of representatives of different trends. I went over analyses and polls. I evaluated studies. I assessed ambitions and party interests. However, the disagreements that I found led me to the conclusion that I could not find a man who would win all the votes or, at least, a majority of the votes.

Based on the mandate I received and the trust bestowed upon me, I had, however, the right to expect that my choice would be readily accepted.

This was a basic condition of the coordinating task I agreed to conduct. For me, to coordinate meant to unite. Since I still cannot foresee the possibility of achieving the desired consensus, which was the objective of this coordinating task, I am hereby returning the coordinating task to my party, which will find means that were not available to me to overcome disagreements and antagonisms, to pick a name from a majority group who would enjoy national respect and who would be approved by the Electoral College.

National accord, our pluralist system, and difference of opinions will be instrumental in promoting the atmosphere of unity necessary to solve our serious problems.

The Brazilian people want agreement, peace, order, security, work, economic recovery, democracy, political sincerity, solidarity, better standards of living, and social justice. May these aspirations be promoted in 1984 at this difficult juncture.

These are the aspirations harbored by our people, our society. These are the aspirations I will continue to promote both as a citizen and as a ruler in the year ahead. Good night. Thank you.

GOVERNMENT TO SPEND $1 BILLION ON AIR DEFENSE

PY291355 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Over the next 10 years, Brazil will spend $1 billion on its air defense system. Utilizing electronic directional firing equipment, ground-to-air missiles, and automatic cannons, it will be the continent's most sophisticated system. The components will be manufactured in Brazil by the Brazilian ordnance industry.

The first phase is underway, and it involves the supply of two directional firing units worth $130 million for use against airborne targets. The successful bidder, Avibras Aeroespacial [Brazilian Aerospace Aviation Company] from Sao Jose dos Campos, must deliver the first prototypes within 2 years. Avibras will also develop a missile with a 5,000-m range. Thereafter, it will develop another missile with a 20-km range.

DOW CHEMICAL DENIES USE OF AGENT ORANGE

PY291515 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Dec 83 p 11

[Excerpts] Yesterday in Belem the chief of the toxicology department of Brazil's Dow Chemical Company, Kazuo Hojo, denied that applications of Tordon 155 and Tordon 101-BR, two chemicals manufactured by his company, can be responsible for the deaths of humans and animals along the transmission lines that the Eletronorte Company erected between the Tucurui hydroelectric plant and the city of Belem.

Hojo said that "at no time was Agent Orange used in the region," because none of the two DOW products has that defoliant's formulation.

Hojo said that there is no scientific evidence connecting the problem at Tailandia, in the municipality of Moju in the state of Para, with the application of Tordon, but he admitted that this product could cause health problems. He said that the problem must be more thoroughly investigated.

Yesterday in Belem, the Para chapter of the Brazilian Lawyers Association decided to denounce to the nation the drama at Tailandia and Goianesia, requesting that the Justice Ministry adopt measures "so that the culprit or culprits for the criminal act can be identified through investigations." The Brazilian Lawyers Association also approved a request sent the day before yesterday by its councilman, Deusdetith Brasil, to the regional attorney general of the Republic so that he may adopt legally appropriate measures.

BRIEFS

THAI AMBASSADOR -- Yesterday President Figueiredo received the credentials of Pranom Kongsamut, the new Thai ambassador to Brazil. [Excerpt] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Dec 83 p 6 PY]

III CORPS HEAD INSTALLED -- Today Army Minister Walter Pires installed General Leonidas Pires Goncalves as head of the III Corps during a ceremony held at the Military Academy in Porto Alegre. Gen Pires Goncalves is replacing Gen Henrique Beckmann Filho. [Summary] [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 22 Dec 83 PY]

HOUSING BANK HEAD APPOINTED -- Today President Joao Figueiredo appointed (Carlos Pinheiro Sanders Rem) as head of the National Housing Bank. (Sanders Rem) is replacing (Manoel Tavares Pereira Netto). [Text] [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 19 Dec 83 PY]

EXPORTS UP 10 PERCENT -- A bulletin published by the Finance Ministry has revealed that Brazilian exports have increased by 10 percent in 1983. Thus, the trade surplus reached $6.5 billion. [Text] [Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2150 GMT 23 Dec 83 PY]

ARGENTINE WHEAT PURCHASES -- Brazil has resumed purchasing Argentine wheat with a 300,000 ton order, which will be charged against the credit Brazil has with Argentina. An initial 100,000-ton shipment is due to be shipped in January at a cost of $126.25 per ton, that is, $26.73 below the lowest price offered by U.S. suppliers. The remaining 200,000-ton shipment, to be shipped in February, will cost $128.86 per ton, $25.50 below the price of U.S. wheat. [Summary] [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 30 Nov 83 p 17 PY]

TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT FOR BOLIVIA -- Communications Minister Haroldo Correa de Mattos presided over a ceremony held in his office for the signature of a $2 million contract between the Bolivian Government and the ABC Sistemas Company. The agreement covers the supply of equipment for telephone services in rural areas in Bolivia. [Text] [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 20 Dec 83 PY]

BELAUNDE ANNOUNCES THREE CABINET CHANGES

PY300125 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0012 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Lima, 29 Dec (EFE) -- Today Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry announced three changes in his Cabinet -- in the Air Force, Energy and Mines, and Fisheries Ministries.

The newly-appointed ministers are Lieutenant General Jose Zlatar, Jose Benevides Munoz, and Ismael Benavides. They replace Lt Hernan Boluarte, Fernando Montero, and Fortunato Quesada, at the Air Force, Energy and Mines, and Fisheries Ministries, respectively. According to a presidential press secretariat report, the new ministers will be sworn-in tomorrow, Friday, after the usual weekly Cabinet meeting. The new Energy and Mines minister, Jose Benavides, was in charge of the Education Ministry until August when he resigned after almost 3 years in the post.

On Saturday Belaunde had already announced that there would be some Cabinet changes. At the time he said that there would not be as many Cabinet changes as was speculated, and that Economy Minister Carlos Rodriguez, who is harshly criticized by the opposition, would remain in his post.

PENITENTIARY OFFICIAL BLAMED FOR INMATES' DEATH

PA300315 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Well-known penal lawyers and the Peruvian press have demanded that (Armando Castrellon), Inspector General of Penitentiaries, be punished for homicide as the person primarily responsibile for the death of nine prisoners and a nun whom the prisoners had held hostage which trying to escape from Lurigancho penitentiary in Lima.

The Attorney General's Office has tried to reduce (Castrellon's) responsibility, and has requested that he be punished for the crime of homicide through negligence. District Attorney Antonio Palomino said that the case cannot be considered homicide through negligence, because there was intent to kill, and that (Castrellon) and the others who killed the nine deserve jail sentences of more than 20 years.

It has also been reported in Lima that the government declared the strike that the 8,000 workers of the State Petroleum Agency, PETROPERU, began last Saturday as illegal, and threatened to fire them if they do not return to work. The PETROPERU workers, among them 1,000 on a hunger strike, are demanding that their salaries be adjusted to the rise in the cost of living, as was agreed upon with the firm through a strike held in October last year. This Wednesday, the 280 workers of the (Cata-Acari) mine resumed their hunger strike in Lima, demanding that the mine be reopened and that they receive payment of 9 months' back pay.

HAVANA NOTES PERU'S ENTRY INTO SECURITY COUNCIL

PA300335 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Peru will join the UN Security Council starting 1 January 1984 for a period of 2 years, replacing Guyana, which completed its 2-year term as one of the two Latin American seats on the Council.

The Peruvian representation at the UN Security Council will be headed by former Foreign Minister Javier Arias, who said that the position of his country will be characterized by respect for the UN Charter's basic principles in the search for world peace, dialogue among nations, and the promotion of a new international economic order.

CALDERON PRESENTS 1983 OIL INDUSTRY REPORT

PA291910 Paris AFP in Spanish 1634 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Caracas, 28 Dec (AFP) -- In 1983 the oil industry generated 90 percent of Venezuela's foreign exchange, $13.9 billion, according to Humberto Calderon, president of Venezuelan Petroleum, S.A. (PDVSA). Nevertheless, the figure is $1.9 billion less than that of the previous year, he noted.

Calderon, a former energy and mines minister, said that PDVSA reduced its foreign currency from $2.1 billion to $1.1 billion in 1983 because of the nation's economic difficulties. He said that this meant a 24 percent reduction from what had been planned. Industry's plans and programs had to be adjusted accordingly, not only because of the currency reduction, but also because of changes in domestic and foreign markets.

On the subject of the domestic market, he emphasized that the demand for gasoline has stabilized and that consumption of liquid hydrocarbons declined by 4.5 percent in the first 6 months of 1983.

Calderon noted that for the first time in Venezuela's history, hydrocarbon reserves reached the level of 25.1 billion barrels, 13 billion of which were natural gas.

He reported that the drilling and exploration program for the Orinoco oil fields, which began in 1979, ended in 1983; this area contains the bulk of Venezuela's oil reserves, amounting to a trillion barrels. A total of 916 wells were drilled at a cost of $348 million (1.5 billion bolivares).

"If only 10 percent of the area's oil were exploited, the nation's reserves would be quadrupled. To date, 5 billion barrels have been added to our exploitable reserves," he revealed.

He noted PDVSA's effort to keep Venezuela's production at the level of 2.5 million barrels per day, of which 1.855 million barrels per day were exported, in compliance with the limits established by OPEC.

He praised the agreement signed with the Veba Oil West Germany firm, whereby PDVSA acquired 50 percent of the Ruhr refinery complex, as an "effort by PDVSA to internationalize the industry."

He said that with an initial investment of $165 million, "we have gained access to the very important German market."

The sale of 100,000 barrels [as received] of crude in 1983 involved over $1 billion from the German market, "which has more than repaid the PDVSA's financial effort to acquire that refinery."

HONDURAN ARMY CHIEF VISITS, MEETS WITH NORIEGA

PA291735 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1555 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Panama, 29 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, commander of the Honduran Armed Forces, visited Panama in the last few hours, it has been learned in this capital. During his short stay in this country, the Honduran militaryman met with General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panamanian Defense Forces, and with his general staff.

Although the topics discussed by the Honduran militaryman and the Panamanian general staff have not been disclosed, everything indicates that they reviewed the political crisis in the area and the reactivation of the Central American Defense Council (CONDECA). A Panamanian military source who refused to identify himself explained that Martinez' visit is of a "private" nature.

4 DEFENSE LAW ARTICLES DECLARED UNCONSTITUTIONAL

PA300120 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] This afternoon the Supreme Court declared unconsitutional some articles of Law 20, which created the Defense Forces of the Republic of Panama. The sentence was issued today during a plenary session of the Supreme Court attended by all the justices to discuss a bill submitted by Justice Marisol Reyes de Vasquez.

Here are the articles found unconstitutional: Article 11, which deals with the Defense Forces information request; Article 66, which deals with arrests; Article 63, which grants retirement to members of the Defense Forces with the rank immediately above that they held at the time of their retirement; and Article 68, which would constitute double jeopardy for disrespect.

The same unanimous decision of the justices of the Supreme Court declares that 40 articles of Law 20 are constitutional.

The decision was signed by the nine justices and the secretary of the Supreme Court of Justice and approved after 2 days of plenary sessions, in which the proposal submitted by Justice Marisol Reyes de Vasquez was extensively discussed.

Several weeks ago General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Defense Forces of the Republic of Panama, asked for revision of Law 20 to test its legality against the Constitution.

PANAMENISTS CHALLENGE PARTIES' LEGAL STATUS

PA291916 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 29 Dec 83 pp 1 A, 16 A

[Excerpt] The Panamenist Party, led by Luis Gaspar Suarez, has asked the Electoral Tribunal, through Hector Zavala, to nullify the electoral processes by which the Popular Action Party, the Christian Democratic Party, the People's Party, the Republican Party, the Popular Broad Front, and the Popular Nationalist Party were registered, so that constitutional and legal steps may be taken "to cleanse the electoral process" and to prevent "groups that obtained recognition as political parties without meeting one of the essential requirements from continuing to participate actively in it."

The Panamenist Party argues that irregularities were committed during the registration of these parties, including "a deceitful impression that they had obtained the minimum of 30,000 adherents required by law, when this figure included people who were already registered with other parties."

The lawyer for the Panamenist Party claims that these political parties "did not then and do not currently have the number of members that the law establishes as a sine qua non requisite for the legal registration of all parties."

The petitioner asks the Electoral Tribunal to enter on the books of the Membership Enrollment Registry [Registro de Inscripcion de Miembros] all resignations and cancellations that have taken place and "to cleanse the books of all enrollments by citizens who were already enrolled in other political parties and subsequently enrolled themselves in parties in formation or in legally recognized parties."

BRIEFS

JOINT JAPANESE INSTITUTE -- This week the Panamanian-Japanese Institute was inaugurated, the result of a bilateral agreement between the two governments signed on 26 August 1982. This new institute will be incorporated in the National Institute for Professional Training, INAFORP. Its objective is to attempt to solve the acute unemployment problem in our country and improve the level of professional performance. [Summary] [Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Dec 83 p 12-A PA]

EEC OFFICIAL VISITS -- President Ricardo de la Espriella and Greek Foreign Minister Ionnis Kharalambopoulos, acting president of the EEC, met to discuss Panama's relations with the EEC and bilateral relations between Greece and Panama. Also present at the meeting were Panamanian Foreign Minister Oyden Ortega, Greek Ambassador Georges (Van Thalis) [as heard] and Greek Counsul Haralambos Tzanetatos. [Summary] [Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Dec 83 PA]

NEW AVIATION OFFICE -- The Civil Aeronautics Board has announced the creation of the Directorate for Airports Supervision [Direccion de Supervision de Aeropuertos], to be initially headed by Felipe Alberto Estribi. [Summary] [Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 27 Dec 83 p 3-A PA]

NEW MILITARY REGION COMMANDER -- In a ceremony held at the 16 December Garrison in David, Chiriqui, on 22 December, Major Luis Antonio Cordoba assumed command of the 5th Military Region. He replaces Lieutenant Colonel Lorenzo Purcell. [Summary] [Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 23 Dec 83 pp 1, 22 PA]

C.A. COUNTRIES TO SUBMIT ALTERNATE PEACE PROPOSAL

PA292245 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Honduras will submit an alternate peace proposal for Central America at the meeting of the Contadora Group in January, Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran said today. He explained that Nicaragua was not included in this proposal, because the Sandinist government had already submitted a proposal in October. Andrade added that Guatemala is not trying to isolate the Sandinist regime from the peace efforts. We are not trying to replace one document for another. Our proposal is intended to complement the one submitted by Nicaragua, Andrade said.

Representatives of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica met a week ago in Tegucigalpa to draft the proposal, which they will submit to the Contadora Group on 7 January.

The signing of the 21-point peace proposal drafted by the Contadora Group, which should have taken place this month, was postponed when it was learned that one of the Central American countries -- allegedly Guatemala -- announced it was not going to sign the documents. This proposal calls for free elections, demilitarization, and the evacuation of foreign military advisers from Central America.

BELIZE

UDP WINS BELIZE CITY COUNCIL ELECTION HELD 14 DEC

FL291851 Belize City THE BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 18 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] The United Democratic Party [UDP] won the nine seats in the Belize City Council elections held on Wednesday, Dec 14.

Barrister Dean Barrow topped the polls for the UDP with 7,221 votes. Former Mayor Remijio Montejo got the most votes for the PUP [People's United Party] with 5,002.

The polls opened Wednesday at 7 in the morning and closed at 6 p.m. Of the 21,266 registered voters, 57.46 percent voted, or 12,220.

Election Day went without incident, and the behavior of the voters is commendable.

Citizens of Belize City are now looking forward to improvement of conditions as stated in the opposition's manifesto. In the pre-election campaign, the opposition said "the UDP offers the people of this city plans and policies that can rescue this city from the many woes that beset us." According to the UDP manifesto, the new City Council "will offer a new system of city government for greater efficiency and productivity." They have also committed themselves to introducing a five-day work week for their workers.

"Let's hope the opposition will live up to their promises," said one City Council worker.

One political observer, commenting on the elections, said the opposition must now be convinced that the Electoral System of Belize is good for both parties, PUP and UDP.

The new City Council will take office in early January.

Breakdown of Results

FL291905 [Editorial Report] Belize City THE BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English on 18 December on page 2 publishes the following results of the Belize City Council election that was held on 14 December:

United Democratic Party

Name	Votes
Derek Aikman	7,096
Dean Barrow	7,221
Gustavo Bautista	6,826
Carlos Castillo	6,885
Hubert Elrington	6,954
Philip Goldson	6,896
Rodwell Pinks	6,708
Samuel Rhaburn	6,678
Frank Lizama	6,859
Total	62,123

People's United Party

Name	Votes
Dorian Barrow	4,924
Rafael Chavez	4,971
Merlene Fonseca	4,988
Marie Lewis	4,838
Harry Lui	4,910
Gloria McField	4,987
Remijio Montejo	5,002
Winston Smiling	4,812
Victor Usher	4,837
Total	44,269

BRIEFS

CULTURAL AGREEMENT WITH COLOMBIA -- Belize and Colombia are to improve their cultural ties under an agreement signed last week in Belmopan. The cultural exchange agreement provides for cooperation between the two countries in the fields of education, sports, the arts, music, science and tourism. Prime Minister George Price and the Colombian charge d'affaires, Sr Edgar Hernandez Rojas, signed the agreement on Monday. [Excerpt] [Belize City THE BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 18 Dec 83 p 6 FL]

COSTA RICA

MONGE TERMS CONTADORA PRINCIPLES 'ACCEPTABLE'

PA291448 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] President Luis Alberto Monge has duly studied the Contadora Group document entitled "Principles for the Execution of the Commitments Established in the Document of Objectives," and believes that the foundations used to draft the proposed principles are acceptable and that they represent a positive effort in the search for peace in Central America.

The president also thinks that the Contadora Group's proposals are compatible with and even complementary to those included in a broad and complete draft of a general treaty on peace, democracy, security, and cooperation in Central America that was recently prepared by Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras and that will also be presented to the other interested governments. President Monge views the principles as acceptable.

EL SALVADOR

AGRARIAN REFORM DECREE EXTENDED BY ASSEMBLY

PA291643 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1256 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 28 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The Salvadoran legislative assembly agreed last night to extend the effective period of Decree No 207, issued by the previous civilian-military government junta, whereby peasants and sharecroppers who work farmland can aquire ownership of that land.

In the last plenary session of 1983, attended by only 34 of the 60 deputies who comprise the chamber, the representatives of the various political parties agreed to extend the decree until 30 June 1984, when it will expire.

[Decree 207 was the subject of intense debate in early 1983, when rightist leaders tried to abolish it, but it was ultimately extended until 31 December.

The deputies recessed at the end of yesterday's plenum, and will return to their duties on Thursday, 5 January 1984.

Meanwhile, the deputies from the right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), the Salvadoran Popular Party (PPS), and the moderate National Conciliation Party (PCN) have agreed not to attend the assembly's plenary sessions following the reorganization of its leadership through an alliance between the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) and the Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party (PAISA) last week.

FURTHER ON INTERNAL PROBLEMS, DIVISIONS WITHIN FPL

More Radio Stations Occupied

PA291346 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2259 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] San Salvador, 28 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Guerrilla groups attacked four radio stations in San Salvador today to transmit a message against the leaders of the clandestine People's Liberation Forces (FPL), employees of the occupied radio stations have told this agency.

The radio stations occupied were Radio Mil Ochenta, Radio El Mundo, Radio Vanguardia, and Radio Clasica, all of which are located in northeastern San Salvador. The insurgents, who identified themselves as members of the Clara Elizabeth Ramirez Metropolitan Front cowed the employees by threatening to detonate bombs that they were carrying inside gift-wrapped boxes.

The incident took place at 1000 (1600 GMT).

The message broadcast by the rebels, which lasted about 20 minutes, strongly criticized the FPL leaders who, according to them, made decisions without taking the organization's rank and file into consideration.

The FPL has experienced internal divisions following a confrontation between its leaders, which led to the assassination of FPL leader Commander Ana Maria and to the suicide of FPL leader Salvador Cayetano Carpio (Commander Marcial) last April in Managua.

Seven Leaders Sentenced

PA291543 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0212 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] San Salvador, 28 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Seven guerrilla commanders have been "sentenced to death" by the People's Liberation Forces (FPL), the Armed Forces Press Committee (COPREFA) reported today.

According to the military communique, the commanders sentenced include "Ramiro," who, along with the six others, belongs to the so-called "FPL Metropolitan Front."

The decision was made by Leonel Gonzalez, commander of the FPL, who claims that they have betrayed the organization, alienating the rank and file from the group's eadership, and announcing a conspiracy against the FPL Central Committee, COPREFA indicated.

COPREFA based its information on an FPL Central Committee document declaring that the seven dissident commanders must be executed in accordance with the organization's internal statutes.

The "Metropolitan Front" has disavowed the current FPL leadership, declaring that the principles that gave birth to the organization must be reaffirmed, and accusing the leaders of taking strategic steps without consulting the rank and file, COPREFA added.

COMPARISON OF COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY FPL FRONT

San Salvador YST Radio El Mundo in Spanish and San Salvador YSTA Radio Clasica in Spanish at 1600 GMT on 28 December, in a simultaneous transmission, broadcast, in progress, the communique issued by the Clara Elizabeth Ramirez Metropolitan Front of the People's Liberation Forces, FPL. The Radio Clasica/Radio El Mundo version has been compared to the San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora Spanish version published in the 28 December Latin America DAILY REPORT, beginning on page p 1, headlined "Communique From FPL Group Occupying Radio Sonora," and found to be identical, beginning from the first line of the first paragraph on page p 2, because of the fact that the transmission was broadcast in progress. The following fills and clarifications are thus provided:

Paragraph two, page p 2, from line three, reads ...that, in its practical contents, entails a ... (clearing queried word)

Same paragraph, from line four reads ...the bourgeoisie, as agreed at the seventh ... (providing indistinct word)

Same paragraph, line seven, read ...at this juncture about the 50,000 deaths inflicted on our people or the role that... (providing indistinct words)

Paragraph three, same page, line two, reads ...of broad participation, including the previously mentioned...(providing indistinct word and rephrasing)

Paragraph four, same page, from line one reads...of these developments, the directorate decided to abruptly change course and put the FPL on a road that is leading them further and further away from their true objectives. During this time, Companero Marcial was constantly critical of this deviation from the responsibilities of this leadership. This was asserted by our representatives when they created our organization. The context for ...(picking up first line of paragraph five, providing indistinct words and rephrasing)

Paragraph five, from line two, reads ...us FPL members waited until the seventh revolutionary council was held 5 months later for a truthful and...(providing indistinct words and rephrasing)

Same paragraph, from line four, reads...of these events and their significance, [words indistinct] the directorate's handling of our interests as a group; instead, they are trying to... (partially clearing indistinct passage and rephrasing)

Paragraph six, from line one, reads ...for this reason, we do not not accept their version or the trial of those involved in the events of April. Therefore, we feel that a through and honest investigation of these events must be carried out... (providing indistinct words and rephrasing).

Paragraph seven, from line one, reads... after the Revolutionary Council ended, desperate actions were taken against all of the advisers and members, who were acting like men who (?shape) their roles through anti-party decisions. Therefore, [words indistinct] directorate and organizations of the FPL -- which constitute a clearly defined [word indistinct] front and a large portion of the armed front -- we have adopted an irrevocable decision reflecting honor and responsibility: to categorically disown the current FPL leadership and to defend the proletariat's interests, because their hope lies in the FPL.. (partially clearing indistinct passage and words rephrasing)

Paragraph eight, lines one and two, read...for this reason, the leadership (?rejects) a responsible handling of the problem and seeks to avoid facing its internal responsibilities. It does not wish to explain the grave internal situation to the FPL members and the Salvadoran people. Quite to the contrary, it discredits and insults us, thus showing a low...(providing indistinct passage and words)

Paragraph twelve from line one, reads...government that will guarantee the hegemony of the proletariat and their main ally, the peasantry, and of the other sectors of the people, which are the only ones capable of establishing the foundations of socialism... correcting word, clearing queried words)

Paragraph one, page 3, from line two, reads...a constant and dynamic development alongside the ...(supplying queried word)

Paragraph three, lines two and three, read...is only by accurately combining the fundamental...(supplying indistinct word)

Same paragraph from last line, reads...and the fundamental right to wage an armed struggle. We recognize ...(picking up first line of paragraph four, clearing queried words)

Paragraph four, lines two and three, read... also recognize the other peoples in the socialist camp.. (providing indistinct words)

Paragraph five, line four, reads... political commission, to create confusion and to minimize our efforts in the eyes of the people and...(providing indistinct words, rephrasing)

Same paragraph from penultimate line, reads...based on the framework of the revolutionary principles for which the FPL is struggling. We appeal to... (picking up first line of paragraph six, providing indistinct words, rephrasing)

Paragraph nine, line one, reads...the people to undertake, as of now..(clearing queried word)

Paragraph eleven, only line, reads... aggression, our people have prepared themselves! Let's struggle for...(picking up first line of paragraph twelve, providing queried words)

ANTIGUERRILLA OPERATION UNDERWAY IN USULUTAN

PA291504 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] A new antiguerrilla operation began in Usulutan Department today under the coordination of Colonel Domingo Monterrosa, commander in chief of the 3d Military Zone.

The operation, supported by both the air force and artillery, will extend to San Marcos Lempa, San Augustin, Berlin, Mercedes Umana, and the Cuscatlan Bridge, in what is intended to be the largest-scale encircling operation staged in this department so far this year.

According to military reports, the operation is being carried out to reestablish peace in the coastal area, where leftists have been attacking both transporters and passengers in recent days to demand the now famous war tax.

Meanwhile, military sources in San Miguel have confirmed that operations to expel the guerrillas are yielding excellent results, because the troops have received the necessary logistical support. In addition supplies have been good. This has raised the troops' morale, prompting greater combative activity.

According to various officers in the east, 23 men were killed and 35 wounded in the actions carried out in northern areas of the departments of Morazan, La Union, and San Miguel. The number of casualties inflicted on the FMLN guerrillas has not yet been determined. The support given by both the artillery and the air force has been critical in allowing the troops to engage in mopping up operations in large areas, the official reports say.

GUERRILLAS ATTACK, DERAIL TRAIN IN USULUTAN

PA291530 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 28 Dec 83 pp 2, 34

[Excerpt] A train was dynamited while passing through Tierra Blanca canton in the jurisdiction of Jiquilisco on 26 December. The locomotive and four cars overturned as a result. The cars were heavily damaged, according to reports released by authorities of the state-owned El Salvador National Railroad.

A large number of rebels had placed themselves on both sides of the tracks waiting for the cargo train to pass at 1500 on Monday.

No one was wounded in the derailment, but the locomotive was seriously damaged and the cars were left overturned beside the track.

FMLN On Casualties

PA291527 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Our guerrilla forces continue to sabotage the puppet army's war equipment. We have sabotaged another train and another bridge in southern Usulutan Department.

At 1600 on 26 December, guerrilla and militia units successfully sabotaged the train that travels at that time from Tierra Blanca to San Marcos Lempa in southwestern Usulutan Department. Over a stretch of the railroad, our units planted several antitank mines on the tracks, detonating them just as the train was passing.

A considerable number of enemy soldiers were traveling on this train, and thus suffered an undetermined number of casualties, including some dead.

The war report that companero Nelson sent us from Usulutan Department also indicates that another railroad bridge was heavily damaged by our forces, who withdrew after completing their mission.

These trains are being used by the enemy to transport troops and war supplies, which is why they become military targets for our guerrilla forces.

HAVANA REPORTS FMLN MESSAGE TO FIDEL CASTRO

FL291906 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 CMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] The following is the complete text of the message sent to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz by the FMLN of El Salvador on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the triumph of the revolution:

"El Salvador, 27 December 1983

"Comrade Fidel Castro:

"We salute, through you, the Cuban people on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the triumph of their revolution, which is the most significant and influential fact in Latin American history. We greet the Communist Party of Cuba, the revolutionary government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces, and we greet you, brother and model for all Latin American revolutionaries.

"We thank you and your people for your example of unyielding firmness, your will to overcome, your unrelinquished dignity in the faee of Yankee imperialism, the most powerful enemy of all peoples, including the American people.

"The Cuban revolution celebrates its first 25 years standing tall and victorious thanks to that unlimited strength. The revolutionary and heroic people of El Salvador, and the FMLN, its vanguard, are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Cuban revolution by fighting and defeating the Army of the genocidal dictatorship, puppet of the Pentagon, and instrument of the bloodthirsty policy of Ronald Reagan. Our experience confirms the lesson of the Cuban revolution: firmness and faithfulness to principles, the incorporation of the people in revolutionary action, and in armed struggle at the service of a just cause, the practice of internationalism, and international solidarity are the keys to invincible revolution and its victory, even though the enemy be the strongest in the world and our nation one of the smallest of the small.

"We congratulate the Cuban people for the great successes of their revolution in every part of its social life during this quarter century, the principal success being the new men and women, healthy, educated, revolutionary, and militant internationalists.

"Long live the 25th anniversary of the Cuban revolution!

"Long live Fidel!

"Long live the brotherhood of the Salvadoran and Cuban peoples, united to fight until final victory!

"Revolution or death, we will win!"

[Signed] FMLN General Command Commander Jorge Shafick Handal
Commander Leonel Gonzalez
Commander Roberto Roca
Commander Ferman Cienfuegos
Commander Joaquin Villalobos

HAVANA REPORTS ON MILITARY SITUATION, ACTIONS

Army Suffering 'Internal Crisis'

FL291553 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] A grave internal crisis in the Salvadoran Army has caused the desertion of dozens of elite troops trained by the United States.

Reports from El Salvador state that 71 government troops of the Atlacatl counterinsurgency battalion, trained by U.S. experts, have deserted in the last few weeks. About 34 Atlacatl troops deserted during the first week in December; the remaining 37 deserted later in the month, according to Salvadoran sources.

Pentagon advisers in El Salvador have deplored the rampant corruption in the Salvadoran Armed Forces, by which Yankee financial aid is sidetracked into the pockets of a few officers.

Desertions, Insubordination Noted

PA292210 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] A large-scale search operation has been initiated by 1,500 Salvadoran soldiers in parts of Usulutan and San Miguel departments, where the guerrilla contingents have consolidated and extended their positions.

Only 2 weeks ago, a similar operation was carried out by the Army in San Miguel and Morazan. On that occasion, the soldiers suffered more than 60 casualties and lost a large guantity of arms and ammunition, according to war bulletins issued by the Armed Forces. Army spokesmen also admitted that 71 soldiers have deserted from the Armed Forces this month, that cases of insubordination are frequent, and that even some officers have refused to fight the rebels.

The sources add that several high-ranking officers have evaded combat on various pretexts, and that the prevailing, corruption in the Armed Forces has resulted in the diversion of U.S. military aid toward lucrative individual activities.

Army Casualties Reported

PA281908 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] The Salvadoran Army high command has admitted that it has suffered some 60 casualties in recent clashes with guerrillas in parts of Morazan and San Miguel departments. For the last 2 weeks, the dictatorship's elite battalions have been intensely combing that northeastern Salvadoran region in an unsuccessful counterinsurgency operation. Since that time, the regime's Air Force has heavily bombed villages and rural areas, killing many defenseless civilians. In response, the FMLN told the population of the need to build air raid shelters to avoid being massacred by the Army.

Civilian Bombing Charges Cited

FL292114 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1802 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Salvadoran military sources have admitted that the regime's Air Force bombed several points on Cerro Guazapa, causing an undetermined number of victims among the civilian population.

The insurgent Radio Farabundo Marti reported that a warplane had strafed the primary school in Las Flores canton, in the Department of La Paz, and later fired on the towns of Torola and San Fernando. Both attacks seem to have been a part of the most recent counterinsurgent offensive by the Salvadoran Army in the eastern region of the country, in which more than 1,500 soldiers from elite U.S.-trained battalions participated.

Nevertheless, this deployment, in the opinion of analysts, was not as successful in its actions as the regime expected; these actions have caused more harm to the civilian population than to guerrilla units.

Several reports received by the radio station indicate that within the Salvadoran Government Armed Forces, the demoralization of the troops is increasing.

According to the report, the Army is not well prepared because there is no coordination between the infantry and the artillery, which has been severely criticized by Yankee advisers.

Nevertheless, Colonel Rafael Bustillo, commander of the Salvadoran Air Force, has been praised by Pentagon advisers for precisely applying the Yankee strategy in that country.

The number of civilian victims from attacks by military planes in El Salvador has become alarming, according to repeated reports from FMLN sources and several international humanitarian organizations.

GUATEMALA

CLANDESTINE GROUP THREATENS NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR

PA291655 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1633 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 29 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The "Council of Commanders" of the clandestine anti-Sandinist organization Counterrevolutionary Solidarity (SC) has given the Nicaraguan ambassador in Guatemala 48 hours to leave the country. "Otherwise, our organization will make him leave under circumstances which would be unpleasant for any human being," an SC note published by a Guatemalan newspaper today states. Orlando Rojas Morales is the Nicaraguan ambassador in Guatemala.

The Nicaraguan Embassy here was attacked on the evening of 24 December. Several men threw a fragmentation grenade and fired at the embassy from a moving vehicle. The ambassador blamed "fascist bands and the dregs of treacherous Somozism" for the sabotage.

BOMB DETONATED NEAR POLICE SCHOOL, NO CASUALTIES

PA291455 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Report given by journalist Mario Ramirez Ruiz to unidentified reporter -- live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Unidentified reporter] What can you tell our listeners about certain incidents that took place last night near the National Police School?

[Ramirez Ruiz] Good morning, listeners to "The Independent" newscast. At 2220 last night, several unidentified individuals detonated a home-made bomb on 21st Avenue and [name indistinct] Street, in Zone 6.

As I have just indicated, this happened at 2220, as a National Police School vehicle bearing 45 policemen who had just completed their guard duty in Zone 1 was (?passing by). Thank God, no personal or material damage was caused.

When our policemen conducted a search, they found about 150 meters of thin wire, (?some) dry cell batteries, and a detonator. According to dozens of neighbors in the area, the culprits were four unidentified men who afterward headed south in a red Mustang.

ORPA Responsible for Bombing

PA292016 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] ORPA [Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms] has claimed responsibility for an armed attack on two police vehicles last night.

In telephone calls to the media, ORPA claimed responsibility for an armed attack on two vehicles belonging to the National Police General Directorate's school. The vehicles were carrying students who are about to graduate as policemen.

No casualties were registered during last night's armed attack, but there was considerable damage. None of the attackers was captured when authorities later combed the area.

As of today, police authorities have ordered special security measures at all Guatemala City gas stations and fuel depots to prevent terrorist acts that could take place on New Year's eve. Well-armed policemen have been assigned to guard gas stations around the clock, to counteract any terrorist attacks by subversive groups.

The National Police General Directorate has reported that even though there is no specific information that the subversives are planning to spoil the New Year festivities, security in those places will still be intensified.

It was also reported that fuel distribution installations, such as Texaco, Shell, and Chevron, all located in Zone 12, are under guard because the subversives could also attempt to set them afire. A high-ranking police chief said that the authorities and security forces are practically in a state of alert, so as to prevent any attack or sabotage effort that subversive groups might stage during the New Year holiday.

HAVANA NOTES REBEL ATTACK ON ARMY IN PALIN

PA282010 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Guatemalan rebel forces have attacked one of the regime's army detachments in the village of Palin, Nuevo Progreso, and have seized five coffee plantations in San Marcos and Suchitepequez Departments. The guerrillas' actions were revealed in a communique issued by the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms, a member of the URNG.

The communique indicated that guerrillas attacked an army detachment in Palin from different sides on 21 December. One of the regime's centers for repression and torture is located in Palin. It is also the operations base for a company of special troops.

The number of army casualties in the action has not been reported. The guerrilla forces were unharmed.

The coffee plantations were seized on 23 and 24 December.

NICARAGUA

FOREIGN MINISTRY REPORTS ATTACK ON FISHING VESSELS

PA292008 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry reported that at 1300 yesterday two Nicaraguan fishing vessels were attacked by counterrevolutionaries from Honduras. The attack took place near Cabo Viejo, in Nicaraguan waters.

The vessels that were attacked are the (Cercasa) No 24 and the (Copeznica) No 1.

No further details have been reported.

Havana Notes Attack

PA300205 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry reported that two Nicaraguan fishing vessels were attacked yesterday by counterrevolutionaries from Honduras. The source added that the attacks on the fishing vessels (Pescada) 24 and (Tepesnica) 1 took place in Nicaraguan territorial waters, off the coast of Caabo Viejo, 8 km from the border with Honduras on the Atlantic coast.

23 ANTI-SANDINISTS REPORTED KILLED IN JINOTEGA

PA290420 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0127 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Managua, 28 Dec (ACAN-EFE) — The Defense Ministry reported tonight that 23 "counterrevolutionaries" were killed in fighting in the northern part of Jinotega Department on the Honduran border.

In the clash, which took place yesterday, Tuesday, at El Cumbo Hill, the Nicaraguan Army seized 17 Chinese AK rifles and 30 knapsacks from the anti-Sandinists.

Northern Jinotega has been the scene of fierce fighting between "counterrevolutionary" task forces who infiltrated the country 9 December and Sandinist troops.

The official source did not supply further details on the fighting in the northern mountains of the country.

Havana Reports Clash

FL291445 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Another 23 counterrevolutionaries have been killed in Nicaragua in a battle on Cerro el Cumbo, located in the northern Department of Jinotega, according to the Nicaraguan Ministry of Defense.

In fighting that took place 8 km from Cerro Kilambe, forces of the Sandinist People's Army captured 17 Chinese AK rifles and 30 olive-green knapsacks.

HAVANA CITES ORTEGA SPEECH ON MILITARY SITUATION

PA282026 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Commander Humberto Ortega, Nicaraguan defense minister, has warned that the United States will try to provoke a Honduran-Nicaraguan war next year to justify its forces' direct intervention in Nicaragua. In an event held in Managua in honor of the combatants killed in 1983, Ortega said that the prospect of direct U.S. intervention is the result of the fact that the blows dealt to the enemy forces have dashed Yankee imperialism's hopes of occupying part of Nicaraguan territory by using counterrevolutionaries alone.

In this regard, he stressed that as of the first half of December, the counterrevolutionaries' losses amounted to 2,414. Of these, 1,824 were killed and the rest were wounded and prisoners. Nevertheless, he warned that because of U.S. support and safe bases abroad, the counterrevolutionaries continue to have the strength and means to continue their diversionist activity and their campaign of terror against small towns near their operational areas.

Ortega reported that 300 members of the Sandinist People's Army died heroically in fighting on the northern and southern borders, and that 947 civilians fell victim to the attacks. These include dead, wounded, and kidnapped civilians. He also said that damage is estimated at more than $100 million.

EL NUEVO DIARIO ON SCHLAEFFER 'KIDNAPPING'

PA290455 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 23 Dec 83 pp 1, 10

[Editorial: Abominable Escalation With Reagan's Millions]

[Text] Despite all efforts by counterrevolutionary spokesmen in Honduras and Costa Rica, and even Washington itself, to create confusion about the kidnapping and uncertain fate of Bishop Schlaeffer and other clergymen, the overwhelming evidence leaves no doubt abut the abominable escalation in the "uncovert operations" sponsored by the Reagan administration.

The statements of those who escaped from Francia Spirpe, confirmed by other clergymen of the community; the information supplied by the General Directorate of State Security; and the physical condition of the kidnapped victims themselves, as well as their pastoral attitude fully confirm that money and weapons supplied by the CIA helped carry out one of the gravest offenses against the wishes of the Nicaraguan people.

The confession by the State Department, transmitted through its ambassador here, of close coordination between Washington and the counterrevolutionary groups, fully establishes that the kidnapping, as well as the fate of the clergymen and Miskitos, is the responsibility of the counterrevolution and its sponsors in the Reagan administration.

The $24 million recently approved by the U.S. Government to bring destruction and death to Nicaragua claimed theese new victims.

The morality of the groups trained and financed by the CIA is clearly evidenced through these heartless acts, and nothing can prevent Mr Reagan and his gang of extremists from being jointly changed with responsibility for these crimes.

Neither can those who have blessed counterrevolutionary violence elude their responsibility.

BANKING REORGANIZATION TO TAKE EFFECT 1 JAN

PA291600 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] As of 1 January, all the country's banks will be regulated by the Nicaraguan Central Bank and not by the Nicaraguan Financial Corporation.

On the basis of this reorganization, the National Develpment Bank will concentrate on financing the agrarian production sectors, farming cooperatives, and private sector production of coffee, cotton, and cattle, among other goods. The Bank of America will handle long-term financing, and short-term financing will be handled speedily by the Nicaraguan Bank.

The Popular Bank will continue to serve small industries, and the Real Estate Bank of Nicaragua will finance the construction of homes, particularly in densely populated areas.

EL NUEVO DIARIO SCORES PDC LEADER RAPPACCIOLI

PA300330 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 23 Dec 83 p 2

[Editorial: "The Obsolete Concepts of a Conservative Leader"]

[Excerpts] The hasty statement that Mario Rappaccioli gave to the reactionaries' daily on Tuesday was not only offensive to the revolutionary government, it did not reflect the composure and gravity that should characterize a political party president in the new Nicaragua.

First, the brand new leader of the Democratic Conservative Party [PCD], in an act of unbelievable rashness -- one that came very close to villainy, in fact -- compared the current Supreme Court of Justice, which is composed of honest and notable jurists, to the Somozist regime's "judicial branch."

Rappaccioli, using the poison of perverse comparisons, stated that "not even during the totalitarian and discredited dictatorship of the Somoza family did a court intervene in the internal affairs of the political parties." Rappaccioli was referring to a Supreme Court ruling that voided a recent PCD convention, accepting a call for nullification from one of the most distinguished members of the PCD.

The revolution will guarantee the political right of minority participation in state affairs, but the parties must earn it in 1985 by making evident their political support. This is the most that the retrograde groups of the right can expect, because the people will continue to be the majority.

Rappaccioli should instead worry about his own party -- or what remains of it, since division is already beginning to undermine it. This should surprise no one: That party's history is one of continuous division

ARDE REQUESTS MEDICAL AID AFTER SANDINIST BOMBING

PA291852 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1801 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Miami, 29 Dec (EFE) -- Through EFE, Eden Pastora today asked for medical aid, required with the "utmost urgency" following 48 hours of constant bombing from the Sandinist forces, for his fighters in southern Nicaragua.

In a contact with EFE from the mountains of southern Nicaragua, the general command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), whose forces are led by Commander Cero, said that the Sandinist army "has bombed our positions intensely" in the last 48 hours.

The command reported that heavy casualties have been sustained, although it did not specify whether there are any dead. It issued a call "for doctors and paramedics of any nationality to come to our aid with the utmost urgency."

The Sandinist offensive against Pastora's guerrillas is being carried out in Rio San Juan Department, on the Costa Rican border. According to ARDE, some mortar rounds have fallen in Costa Rica, specifically in Las Tiricias.

Commander Pastora believes that after the bombing the Sandinist infantry will stage a large-scale attack to try to dislodge the 1,500 guerrillas that ARDE has deployed in small camps throughout the region.

MISURA LEADER FAGOTH HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

PA290355 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 2205 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Press conference held by Steadman Fagoth Muller, commander in chief of the MISURA Movement, in Tegucigalpa, Honduras -- live]

[Excerpts] [Fagoth] Good afternoon, companero newsmen. In addition to explaining the large exodus [from Nicaragua], we also wish to explain some very important matters to the international community, especially to the Central American community. We would like to explain our situation in this tumultuous Central America.

Before we approach this subject, which is the reason for this press conference, I would like to emphasize the Sandinists' systematic plan of extermination and their racism against the ethnic minorities. When we say that there is a systematic extermination plan, we mean a project, a program, to change the identity of the minorities on the Atlantic Coast of my country. This is being done through pressure groups, through a systematic academic, quote unquote, plan, through education, through a new people's church, through the people and their organizations. These situations forced us to make decisions that recently unleashed the mass exodus.

This is not an isolated case, and this is what I would like to explain: The mass exodus was planned in advance. It was a well-prepared plan brought on by incarcerations; disrespect for our women; the death rate among our elderly, who were dying of broken hearts because they were being relocated in settlements, quote unquote; and because of the misery of the people.

All this motivated us to plan this evacuation. It was planned in advance, but the political situation was not right, and we were waiting for the right moment.

We had already contacted the Sandinist detachment in Francia Sirpe. There were 12 men there, and they were on our side. They practically carried out this evacuation. These 12 armed Sandinists, quote unquote -- they were more MISURA than Sandinist -- practically carried out this evacuation. (Lian Picknic) was in charge, and he supplied protection.

When at 1000 the Sandinists realized Francia Sirpe was being evacuated, they deployed special troops, using eight helicopters, directly into Francia Sirpe. They could not go through La Tronquera because the two bridges between Francia Sirpe and La Tronquera had been mined. One had already been destroyed, and the other one was just waiting for someone to cross it.

Once we entered the mountains, we began to leave troops behind to ambush them. The first fighting began at 1130 on 20 December. Fighting never stopped. We fought day and night. They tried to break our rearguard constantly. This was attempted with a battalion -- 750 men -- and its support group of paramedics, radio operators, and support weapons. They brought in another battalion from Leimus to cut off our advance.

The real purpose for this press conference is this: After more than 2 years of experience fighting Sandinism, our council of elders and our organization's general staff have attended periodic meetings with the chiefs of the various zones and sections into which we have divided our communities. I believe that if conditions continue this way and there is no alternate solution for Central America, we will not be able to go on fighting like this if we have our old people and children, as well as our women, with us in the territory.

Then our determination is clear: To form a mixed committee with the International Red Cross, the Human Rights Commission, and all past, present, and future commissions. The idea is to organize them. After 2 years of fighting Sandinism -- a year in politics and a year in military activities -- we have reached the conclusion that it is best to evacuate all our women and children at any cost -- I repeat, at all costs. Then we men would remain to fight to the end. We would be grateful to any country that received our women and children, as well as our elderly. We would ask that they be given something to do so as not to be parasites and to be able to survive while we men and young men faced Sandinism with weapons.

We are not interested in carrying out another evacuation like this, but through a commission -- be it the International Red Cross, the Human Rights Commission, UNHCR, or whatever. I hereby invite these distinguished international organizations to evacuate our people while we fight. Our people are a very small minority that can disappear when Sandinism bares its claws. In fact, it is doing so already. It is exterminating us.

I spoke to Tomas Borge on the evening of 22 December. I told him very clearly that we would evacuate the people at all costs. He said no. We say yes. We will put an end to all concentration camps. We will take our communities out, because they are asking us to get them out. So the purpose of this press conference is to ask you to give publicity to our plan to organize this commission. We want this commission to speak to the FSLN so that the FSLN allows a decent departure for our women and our elderly. One-third of our children and our elderly have died, and we don't want this extermination to go on. Thank you very much.

[Unidentified reporter] Commander, do you know how many people will be evacuated?

[Fagoth] Yes, 100,000. We will go to whatever country accepts us.

[Reporter] How many people participated in this action, since you put some of the people in Puerto Cabezas and some in other places in Bluefields territory?

[Fagoth] We had them in (Siguiu), Klingna, (Chicapate), Sandy Bay, Bismuna, in three places in Torre Dos and (Suilmali) on Ulang river -- in a total of seven different places. In addition, we had two armed groups to stop the battalion that was coming to outflank us in the front. Adding all this up, I can tell you we utilized some three-fourts of our forces for this evacuation, although I would not want to give you exact figures.

[Rodrigo Sanchez] What about the Nicaraguan Democratic Front's ideas of creating a civic-military junta in order to create an extraterritorial government and to consolidate the insurgents' struggle?

[Fagoth] (?We discussed this) this morning. We reached the conclusion that, well, we don't agree with this idea in principle. We believe that there must be a joint general staff and a junta -- whether it is called a junta, political committee, or directorate. But there must be a political organization and a joint general staff, a joint coordination center to direct and to control all military activities. There must be a general staff that will be the basis for a general staff of the Republic of Nicaragua. I don't believe in a civic and military junta.

[Unidentified reporter] I have two questions. The first is what resources do you have in case you receive no positive answer from the organizations that you mentioned to evacuate the 100,000 Miskitos? The other is what could you do to evacuate those still in Nicaragua if no help is received?

[Fagoth] The problem is serious and we admit that. That is why we are not prepared to evacuate them to Honduras, because the country has many problems, and we are very grateful for what it has done on behalf of our people -- not only our minorities, but all the Nicaraguan people. That is why we suggest that this commission move to Managua, so that the evacuation is made directly from there. Now, whether the Sandinist government accepts this, we do not know. We have no other alternative.

Now, about your second question: We made a decision on 1 January 1983. This was our zero hour, when we decided to rise in arms against Sandinism. That decision has already been made, and we will follow through to the ultimate consequences independent of actions that may be taken at the big power, strategic levels in the Caribbean basin.

[Alejandro Casco] The Sandinists have announced elections in 1985. As a rebel group, how do you see that process, even if supervised by international organizations such as the OAS and UN, with participation by the political parties supporting the Sandinist front? Would MISURA accept the results of such elections?

[Fagoth] We would be mistaken not to accept the results if all forces opposed to Sandinism participated in the elections. However, we will not turn our weapons over to anyone under any circumstances, because we have paid for these weapons with our blood and tears.

Besides the cost of the weapons and the difficulty in obtaining them, we must consider the mentality, the ideology with which we picked up these weapons against Sandinism. We must be clear on this: We can not at this moment consider a peaceful, civic solution, because we have gone through very bitter experiences.

[Mario Pineda] What does the Sandinist government officially tell the people is being done on behalf of the MISURA's and how do the people react to this?

[Fagoth] That is a very interesting question. They have a daily radio program in Miskito carried on Radio Sandino, currently featuring seven Miskito youths -- at first, there were 12, but they gradually dropped out, and they will continue to do so until there are none left. In that program, they repeat every day the same story: that we are manipulated and occupied by CIA and the Somozist guardsmen. They have repeated this so much that the people have already grown tired of it.

MISURA'S FAGOTH TERMS PASTORA 'FIFTH COLUMNIST'

PA291713 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Report by Alejandro Casco on interview with Steadman Fagoth, Nicaraguan commander in chief of the Miskitos, Sumus, and Ramas, MISURA, in Tegucigalpa, Honduras on 28 December]

[Excerpts] Steadman Fagoth believes that the elections in Nicaragua in 1985 will not solve the country's problems. Let's hear what he said:

[Begin recording] [Fagoth] It would be great if the elections would end the problems, but we are sure that they are a trick [words indistinct]. Humberto Ortega said very clearly that power was not going to be contested in the elections, adding that they were being held to elect men who will continue their Marxist program.

[Casco] How many people do you still need to evacuate?

[Fagoth] We are talking about 100,000 people. [end recording]

What problems currently exist with Commander Cero's sector? It has been reported that unity has yet to be achieved among the various anti-Sandinist groups. Steadman Fagoth replied to this question:

[Begin recording] [Fagoth] Eden's case is very controversial. Today he says one thing and tomorrow he will say another. We are waiting for Eden Pastora to define himself. We can't continue to wait for Eden Pastora. The struggle exists. It is an unequal struggle, but we are moving forward. We must overcome the problem with those people who want to overcome it and not with those who don't want to. I continue to think that he is a fifth columnist and that [words indistinct] with Eden Pastora.

[Casco] In other words, there is no room for Eden Pastora in the plans to launch an offensive?

[Fagoth] No, not for (?an offensive) in Nicaragua. No, there is no room for him in that plan. I have made this clear several times. I said this in this same house at a previous news conference. I clearly said that I believe that Eden Pastora is a fifth columnist. He has yet to defend himself against this charge. I am waiting for him to defend himself. [end recording]

[Casco] Regarding the charge against Eden Pastora, better known as Commander Cero, Fagoth said:

[Begin Fagoth recording] There are three reasons that I say that he is a fifth columnist. First, whenever we have spoken of unity and we have been on the brink of achieving unity, he has destroyed it. It seems as if he has clear and precise instructions to prevent unity within the anti-Sandinist movement. Second, whenever the Central American political situation favors anti-Sandinism, he makes statements in opposition to this. I am not referring to his statement about fighting imperialism if an invasion takes place; I am referring to another specific case that I do not want to mention at this time. Third, so many things have happened under Eden Pastora's organizational control that we believe that he has close and direct communications with Sandinism. [end recording]

FDN LEADER SAYS SANDINISTS WILL FALL IN 1984

PA300405 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 29 Dec 83 p 5

[By Marco Tulio Romero]

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa -- Adolfo Calero, president of the directorate and commander in chief of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), yesterday predicted here that 1984 will definitely be the year the Sandinist regime will be toppled.

Calero spoke openly with LA PRENSEA on the FDN's plans and its desire for this neighboring Central American country to enjoy a democratic way of life. The top leader of this opposition organization refused to acknowledge that up till now his efforts to topple that regime have failed, creating a generally precarious political situation in Central America at this time.

He firmly maintained that at the beginning of the FDN offensive, the organization had 1,000 men, whereas it now has 10,000 members in arms in seven departments, especially in the north and in a small area in the southern section. The FDN commander even went so far as to assert that in all the clashes with the Sandinists, the FDN has never had even one defeat -- a strange thing in this kind of struggle.

A War Is Negotiable

In response to a question about dialogue with the government, the opposition leader emphasized that wars always end at the negotiating table, and that it would be advantageous to arrive at an agreement of this type to avoid greater bloodshed.

"We have, moreover, asked the Contadora Group to mediate in a dialogue with the Sandinists and to guarantee any resulting agreement. However, there has been no response from Mexico, Venezuela, Panama, and Colombia on this proposal," Adolfo Calero said.

Calero said that the FDN will continue to back this plan, but will not trust the Sandinists' word, because "they are liars, slanderers, and professional deceivers." Because of this, any arrangement would require guarantees from the Contadora Group countries or the OAS, which would be obliged to force compliance with any agreement.

RAUL CASTRO ON PRESENT CONDITIONS IN CAMAGUEY

FL292200 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1330 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, minister of the FAR, and first vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, visited the municipality of Santa Cruz del Sur on the third day of his tour of the province of Camaguey.

In the municipality of Santa Cruz del Sur, one of the most backward areas of the country before the revolution, the second secretary of the Central Committee approved of the new villages built for the workers in the sugarcane complexes, the agro-industrial sugar complexes Candido Gonzalez Haiti and the new plant that will be inaugurated next 31 December, the Jesus Suarez [Gallor].

In Curajalla, a town of about 80 two- and three-room houses, in the sugar growing district, Raul was informed by Lazaro Vasquez and Luis Rodriguez, first and second secretaries of that province, respectively, and both alternate members of the Central Committee, about the plans for the development of this community, which is destined for the agriculture workers of the Suarez (Gallor) complex and for the combine operators and mechanics in charge of the machines. This new village, which is still uninhabited, has sites for a school and a general store. It is hoped that in 1984 another 40 houses will be built, and in the future, a total of 150 houses are planned.

Curajalla as well as other new sugar oriented communities in Santa Cruz del Sur are part of a wide socio-economic development plan for this area and for the definite stabilization of the work force. This will considerably decrease and in some cases completely eliminate the need for bringing in volunteer forces and any other eventualities in sugar related activities.

In Camaguey Province, 40 communities of this type are under construction for the sugar and agriculture workers. Seven of these communities are being built in Santa Cruz del Sur.

Later, the second secretary of the Central Committee, accompanied by Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, member of the Politburo; Vilma Espin, alternate member of the Politburo and president of the Federation of Cuban Women; Irma Sanchez, president-secretary of the State Committeee for Material and Technical Supply; and Jorge Fernandez Guervo, secretary of the Fishing Industry, went to the fishery for the exportation collective of Santa Cruz del Sur. The second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba gave a speech to the workers outside the processing plant.

[Begin Castro recording] We are bettering outselves in every way. In a couple of days we will be celebrating our 25th anniversary of the revolution. Some of you had not been born yet. [crowd chants no] That's the nicest thing you can tell a woman. [crowd laughs] However, no doubt some of you had been born.

[Unidentified woman] I feel proud of having been born then, for having been alive in those days.

[Castro] To have been alive in those days, it was a glorious time. That first of January 1959 was a culminating point in the history of our country, but we can better understand this after 25 years have passed.

We have decided to visit the province, at least parts of the province. It's large, even though Ciego [Ciego de Avila] separated from it, but Camaguey still remains one of the largest provinces of the country, even though it has a small population. The population of all of Cuba is increasing to approximately 90 persons per square kilometer; we're like the Chinese in this respect. Camaguey has about 44 persons per square kilometer now, doesn't it? With the added drawback that about 72 percent live in the cities, in the capital or the cities.

[Unidentified male worker] However, in an agriculture municipality such as ours, for example, there are 18 persons per square kilometer.

[Castro] During the last three days in which we have been visiting different places, the changes have been fantastic. We went to see some of the new villages that have been built at the canecutting complexes, at the new agro-industrial complex that you all know about.

In this area here, at sugar making plant No 70, they used to call it the Macondo, referring to a village described in a book by Garcia Marquez. Camguey was a burden carried by the nation, even more so at sugar harvesting time.

Maybe you who live here don't realize what a great step Camaguey has taken; we who come here infrequently do notice the change. I was telling the boys at the Maximo Gomez School, the first institution that I visited when we arrived here, that if we recall that only 35 property owners owned all of the Province of Camaguey -- that is Ciego and Camaguey, 42 percent of the land, which included some North American monopolists, -- along with what another 465 persons held, less than 500 people owned 72 percent of the land in the two provinces. That is about 60 thousand sugarcane plantations [as heard]. I think that considering only this example was enough reason to justify the revolution; making the bourgeois leave; appropriating the land; and giving the land to the peasants, cooperatives, or state owned farms.

Here is another example: the case of the students. At the university level, Camaguey has almost the same number of students at this level as all of Cuba had 25 years ago in Havana where there was only one small university in Santiago.

Thirteen years ago, when I was in the old province of Oriente -- you know that it is now composed of five provinces -- with Comrade Guillermo Garcia, who was then director of the party, there were only five agriculture engineers. Now there are about five agriculture engineers in just about any district. How many engineers of all types were there in the complex we visited yesterday?

[Unidentified man] Before it had...

[Castro] No, now.

[Same unidentified man] Now it has 17.

[Castro] No, not counting those in industry.

[Same unidentified man] Thirty-two in all.

[Castro] I was telling the students, that anything you can think of -- and I think this is a good example, now that we are approaching the 25th anniversary of the triumph of the revolution -- any detail seen in isolation from all others is reason to justify the efforts and the sacrifices that were made in order to win and consolidate, defend and consolidate the revolution.

It was not only the taking of power. What we are most proud of, all of us, the comrade directors of the party and especially Fidel, who we have heard say on many occasions, what we are most proud of, is our people. Thank you. [crowd chants: Viva Fidel, viva; Viva Raul, viva; Viva the revolution, viva] [end recording]

At mid-day, Raul and those with him met with Politburo members of the party organization of the municipality's three agro-industrial complexes and of the fishery collective.

Eddy Carmas, first secretary of party at the municipal level, gave a detailed explanation on the sugar activities in that area, various economic activities, party activities, education, and the activities related to the defense of the country. Hundreds of Young Pioneers gave an effusive and spontaneous greeting to the second secretary of the Central Committee of the party as he left Santa Cruz del Sur.

COMMENTARY CRITICIZES U.S. UNESCO WITHDRAWAL

FL292238 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2105 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] The entire world is currently echoing with one of the now habitual stupid actions of Mr Reagan. The news agencies are reporting that the United States has just officially announced its intention of withdrawing from UNESCO, beginning the day after tomorrow. [as heard]

State Department spokesman (Alan Brumbers) said a few hours ago that the decision of Reagan and his team had been communicated to the Secretary General of UNESCO. Other dispatches indicate that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has expressed his regret and concern over Washington's destructive decision. The UN secretary general was officially informed this morning of Reagan's most recent stupid action in a letter from Yankee Secretary of State George Shultz.

UN AMBASSADOR ON CONTADORA, AREA CONFLICT

PA291546 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] In an interview granted to the Mexican newspaper EL DIA, Raul Roa Kouri, the Cuban ambassador to the United Nations, stressed the importance of the Contadora Group's efforts in search of a peaceful solution to the Central American conflict.

Roa Kouri stressed Cuba's solidarity with Nicaragua, as well as its determined opposition to any kind of U.S. aggression against that Central American country. Commenting on El Salvador, the Cuban ambassador to the United Nations said that the Salvadoran fighters know that a revolutionary victory might lead to U.S. intervention, and that as a result, they have expressed their willingness to negotiate with the regime in the hope of finding a peaceful solution to the problem.

COMMENTARY PRAISES MEXICAN FOREIGN POLICY

PA291800 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 28 Dec 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] This year Mexico's foreign policy focused on the search for a peaceful solution to Central America's problems, based on the principles of nonintervention and the self-determination of peoples.

Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid's initial year in office demonstrated a continuation of Mexico's traditional foreign policy, despite the fact that every step taken was in opposition to the hegemonic U.S. interests. As for Washington, the Mexican Government continues to face many problems, ranging from the protectionism of U.S. products exercised by the White House, to the expulsion of thousands of Mexicans without papers from U.S. territory, the tuna war, the border treaty, and the border pollution problem.

When De la Madrid took office on 1 December 1982, he affirmed that Mexico would forecfully deal with all problems in its relations with the United States, while adding that Mexico would continue to support the legal equality of all nations, disarmament as a means of preserving peace, and equitable and efficient international cooperation at any cost.

In that context, the first important step was taken by Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda, when he met on 8-9 January on the Panamanian island of Contadora with his counterparts from Panama, Venezuela, and Colombia to establish a Latin American group whose peace efforts have attracted world attention: the Contadora Group. After nine meetings, five of which were attended by the foreign ministers of El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Costa Rica, the Contadora Group -- as Foreign Secretary Sepulveda noted -- has forestalled the imminent possibility of war in Central America, although the risk of war cannot yet be dismissed.

In another effort to promote peace in Central America, President de la Madrid met on 16-17 July on the Mexican island of Cancun with Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins, Colombian President Belisario Betancur, and Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella. The Contadora Group's Document of Objectives was drafted at this meeting, containing 21 points that are designed to reduce foreign intervention, to reduce arms traffic, to remove foreign military bases and advisers, to guarantee border security, and to prevent all kinds of attacks among the Central American nations.

Subsequent meetings between the Contadora Group foreign ministers and their Central American counterparts dealt with the implementation of that Document of Objectives. The results of these meetings will be presented in early January.

The international community, including both governments and international organizations, have supported all of the group's undertakings. However, during the recent visit to Mexico by Henry Kissinger, president of the U.S. Bipartisan Commission for Central America, Mexican Foreign Secretary Sepulveda stated that the Contadora Group wants not only recognition, but tangible results. Sepulveda's words were viewed as criticism of Washington, which while verbally supporting Contadora, carries out forceful and violent actions in the region, as in the case of Grenada.

The Mexican Government condemned the U.S. invasion of that tiny eastern Caribbean nation, and has declared that the presence of U.S. troops and warships in Central America does nothing to secure peace, serving instead to increase tensions.

In 1983, Mexico reaffirmed the Latin American orientation of its foreign policy and its desire to improve its relations with Argentina, and it reproved the military regime in Chile. The Mexican Government also increased its participation in the international organization, where it promoted its struggle for world peace and for the establishment of a new international economic order.

GRENADA

PAPER REPORTS ON GRENADA'S PRO-U.S. STANCE

FL291300 Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 23 Dec 83 p 3

[By Reudon Eversley]

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Tuesday (CANA) -- Two months after U.S. and Caribbean forces made an early morning landing on Grenada, their mission to restore "peace and democracy" on this once relatively unknown Caribbean island appears to enjoy just as much widespread support among Grenadians as in the initial stages.

Signs are evident just about everywhere of Grenadian appreciation for the October 25 U.S.-led intervention to rid the country of the apparently much-feared pro-Cuba military junta that had seized power in a bloody October 19 coup.

People are now openly wearing pro-invasion pins and vehicles flying U.S. flags. Scrawled across shop fronts in the capital are slogans welcoming the end of the last four-and-a-half years of left-wing rule and virtually everywhere in informal groups people speak in glowing terms about Washington's rescue operation. Pro-American canvas banners flutter in the gentle tropical breezes over some city streets. "Cuba no way. Grenadians say America must stay," declares the bold black lettering on one of them.

Colourful revolutionary slogans which once adorned walls in and around St George's in the four-and-a-half years of the just deposed People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) are being smeared and replaced by pro-American ones like "1983 year of liberation. We welcome America," seen on a wall near a police traffic point here. The slogan had replaced one reading "1983 year of political and academic education" as was decreed by the (PRG).

Miniature U.S. flags are a common sight these days on taxis and minibuses plying the busy city streets as well as on private vehicles and in shops. In some cases, both American and Grenada flags appear overlapping each other, demonstrating, perhaps, the new "love affair" between the two countries, as one senior American Army officer described the current relationship between Washington and St George's.

Stores appear to be doing quite good business in the sale of mostly Chinese-made "T" shirts, being worn by countless Grenadians, that say a big "thank you U.S. and Caribbean friends for liberating Grenada."

"Castro said he was going to give us a good Christmas present. (Interpreted by the lone Cuban diplomat here to be the half-finished largely Havana-financed Point Salines International Airport) but God, the Americans couldn't have given us a better one," remarked one elated dockworker over a lunchtime drink with a few frinds in a St George's bar.

On the bustling horseshoe-shaped St George's waterfront, around street corners, in restaurants, virtually every day Grenadians exchange opinions among themselves on what was in store for the country after the nightmarish October 19 experience in which Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and three Cabinet colleagues were assassinated, along with an as yet unknown number of civilians. According to documents found by the American forces, the ultra-leftist members of the short-lived Revolutionary Military Council (RMC), some of whom were of the New Jewel Movement (NJM), ousted Bishop to push the 1979 revolution further to the left. "This victory (Bishop's overthrow) is one for progress and for socialism," said one of the discovered documents. It appears to have been a speech by a senior Army officer to the Armed Forces shortly after Bishop's ouster from the leadership of the NJM.

Grenadians openly speak of their fears that tough times were ahead with more repressive rule under the new leadership and increased hardships, like the planned rationing of foodstuff, hadn't the foreign forces intervented. According to the discovered documents, plans were afoot as part of an emergency economic programme to introduce rationing. The authorities had decided to hold talks with importers and retailers on the move, and were planning to use their propaganda machinery in a public education programme.

"Truly, there is a new breath of freedom in our land," said Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon in a recent address to the nation as he spoke of the mood in Grenada after the successful U.S.-led operation.

Grenadians are moving around freely in the day but several say they are wary about going out at nights as the country may not be 100 per cent safe. The government also shares concern about national security.

The People's Revolutionary Army (PRA), the main disciplined force here for the past four years, was disbanded by the governor-general shortly after the multinational forces took control of the island. Although officials say several ex-PRA members accepted an amnesty and handed over their weapons to the new authorities, there's still a feeling that guns are still knocking around in the wrong hands. "I don't go to parties these days. I just stay home because I don't know who may be out there waiting to hit me for some reason or the other," remarked a telecommunications worker.

Following the total withdrawal of U.S. combat troops last week, responsibility for Grenada's national security has been turned over to the 500-odd Caribbean Peacekeeping Force (CPF). CPF commander, Jamaican Lieutenant-Colonel Delroy Ormsby, said last week the situation was "relatively quiet" with no reports of shooting incidents since November 21. "We hope it will remain that way," he told the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY (CANA) in an interview.

Grenada's new interim Government, installed after the intervention, is putting emphasis on getting the island's ill-equipped police force -- which had been de-emphasised during the PRG -- back into peak shape to resume the task of maintaining law and order when the CPF eventually withdraws. A first batch of 50 policemen will leave for Barbados early in the new year to undergo basic training at the Regional Police Training Centre. At the same time, arrangements are being made to send senior officers to Britain for training.

"Every single guy in this police force needs training. Every guy without exception," said Brian Graves, a British police adviser helping with the reorganisation of the local force. It's proposed that in about three years, the size of the force will increase from around 280 at present to 500.

Ormsby said once the police force is back on a firm footing, the need for maintaining the CPF here would most likely come under review.

On the economic front, a halt on work on several projects of the previous administration has thrown an undisclosed number of Grenadians out of work. The new authorities are trying to get aid donors to fund job-creating projects that would ease the situation.

It also looks as if the government will have a foreign exchange shortage for the next three or four months following last month's International Monetary Fund (IMF) decision to suspend a US $14.1-million balance of payments support programme to Grenada in the wake of the October 19 coup. IMF officials from Washington were here last week for talks with the government on a new one-year loan arrangement, but government officials say this money would not be available to Grenada before next April at the earliest -- a situation which means some austerity measures may be in store for people here.

The Grenada Advisory Council said shortly after taking office that it had inherited a grave liquidity problem from the former People's Revolutionary Government (PRG). The Council blamed this on the maintenance by the PRG of current and capital expenditure at unsustainable levels and said the IMF's decision had compounded the government's financial position.

The United States is aiding Grenada's economic reconstruction with a $15-million package that will be used, among other things, to repair Grenada's potholed roads. Grenadians say some roads have not been maintained for more than three years.

The Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), whose President William Demas is serving as economic consultant to the caretaker government, is drafting a two-year economic development programme for Grenada. This will highlight all areas the government sees as crucial to the country's economic development over the next 24 months, including completion of the Point Salines International Airport, according to Nicholas Brathwaite, head of the nine-member Advisory Council. The plan is expected to be ready after Christmas and will be presented at a donors conference early in the new year to secure funding for the programmes. This programme is expected to start to put Grenada back on a sound economic footing as the provisional government presses on with plans for returning the island to parliamentary government.

The election timetable right now, according to Brathwaite, calls for a poll sometime in the second half of next year, Brathwaite says, between May and next Christmas. Grenadians last had general elections in 1976 -- seven years ago.

BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT IN JANUARY

FL291946 Bridgetown CANA in English 1835 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Paramaribo, Suriname, Dec 29 (CANA) -- Brazilian Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro is expected to pay an official visit to Suriname from January 26 to 28, the official Suriname News Agency (SNA) has reported.

It said he had visited the country earlier this year in an effort to strengthen the friendship between the two peoples. Since then, SNA said, several projects aimed at developing trade between Suriname and Brazil had been carried out.

LARGE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION LOANS EXPECTED

FL291950 Bridgetown CANA in English 1802 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Paramaribo, Suriname, Dec 29 (CANA) -- Suriname's military government says it expects loans totalling 300 million dollars (U.S.) next year, the official news agency, SNA, reported today.

Finance Minister Winston Caldeira, just back from a visit to the U.S. for negotiations with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the Inter-American Development Bank, said the country's prospects for getting the loans were "very favourable." He said a mission from the IDB was due here next month, while a World Bank mission was expected at the end of February and an IMF delegation would visit the former Dutch colony early in the year.

STRIKING WORKERS DEMAND BOUTERSE'S RESIGNATION

FL291245 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] In news concerning the Caribbean, in Paramaribo, Suriname, aluminum company workers are demanding that Suriname's military government resign as a condition for ending a 10-day-old strike that has cost $3 million in lost production.

Large parts of Paramaribo were without electricity yesterday and government spokesmen accused electric utility workers of sabotaging a transformer station to support the striking aluminum workers.

Bank workers also joined the strike last week, but returned to work yesterday after being told they would be fired.

Aluminum workers have presented a list of 13 demands, including the resignation of Army Commander Deysi Bouterse's government and an end to stiff new income tax laws.

CHILE

OPPOSITION CALLS FOR PROTEST OF PINOCHET SPEECH

PY291755 Paris AFP in Spanish 1717 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Santiago, 29 Dec (AFP) -- The Chilean opposition today issued a call for a noisy protest throughout the country during President Augusto Pinochet's traditional year-end message which will be broadcast over a radio and television network.

According to Jorge Lavandero, leader of the protest command, the protest should include pan beating, blackouts, honking of horns, and other similar demonstrations. Pinochet is scheduled to address the nation on Saturday evening.

Lavandero indicated that this new protest has been agreed upon among the parties which belong to the Democratic Alliance and by the social and union organizations linked to the PRODEN (National Development Project).

HAVANA REPORTS 3-HOUR BLACKOUT IN WIDE AREA

PA300030 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Synchronized dynamite attacks on high-voltage towers last night caused a blackout that lasted more than 3 hours and affected approximately 1,000 sq km. The electrical interruption extended from Copiapo, 804 km north of Santiago, to Concepcion, 500 km south of the capital.

All of the areas surrounding Santiago, and almost all of Valparaiso and Vina del Mar were equally affected by the blackout, which also interrupted radio and television broadcasts, caused problems at train and bus stations, and interfered with traffic because stoplights were not working.

COLOMBIA

PCC CONDEMNS ACTIONS 'JEOPARDIZING' PEACE

PA292025 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 22 Dec 83 p 6-A

[From the "Political Activity" column by Guillermo Perez]

[Text] The Communist Party of Colombia, PCC, Central Committee yesterday issued a communique condemning various actions, including kidnapping, that jeopardize peace.

The PCC renewed its rejection of anarchy, supported actions that lead to democratic political reforms, stressed that kidnappings "are an abominable disgrace," and maintained that terrorism "has no bearing on the proletarian idea of struggle for change in society."

MEXICO

CHINESE AGRICULTURAL TECHNICIANS VISIT COUNTRY

FL292344 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2240 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 29 Dec (NOTIMEX) -- Lu Liangfu, president of the Chinese Agricultural Sciences Academy, today stated that the Government of the People's Republic of China has special interest in Mexican agricultural research, which is considered to be among the best in the world.

During a visit that technicians from the Chinese academy are making to the National Institute for Agricultural Research (INIA) to establish the bases for more extensive technical and scientific exchanges in the fields of agricultural research, methods of water use, seeds, and fertilizers, the official recognized the Mexican Government for the importance it has accorded to the areas to increase the food supply.

After pointing out that some of the best varieties of cereal grain in the world were developed in Mexico, the Chinese official thanked Mexico, which has given his country several varieties of cotton which are resistant to blight and disease and which are highly productive.

Liangfu said that shortly a group of Mexican technicians would visit several investigation centers in the People's Republic of China, where special attention will be given to relations between the two countries.

Rodolfo Moreno, subdirector of INIA technical support services, emphasized the importance of cooperation agreements between Mexico and China. More exchanges in this field are foreseen for next year.

He added that types of Mexican dwarf wheat are planted on 35 million hectares of land in various countries of the world, especially in Bangladesh, India, northern Africa, Pakistan, Turkey, and China, as well as in Spain and France.

PARAGUAY

HAVANA ON OPPOSITION LEADER'S PLANS TO RETURN

PA291620 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Miguel Gonzalez Casabianca, president of the Colorado Popular Movement [MOPOCO], has announced in Buenos Aires that he will try to return to Paraguay on Thursday, thus ending his 25-year exile in Argentina. This will be the sixth time that Gonzalez Casabianca has tried to return to Paraguay; on the five previous occasions, General Alfredo Stroessner's regime prevented him from doing so.

He also announced that on Friday, Rafael Jimenez, former MOPOCO vice president who has also been in exile in Argentina for the last 25 years, will try to enter Paraguay.

Gonzalez Casabianca noted that in recent days Gen Stroessner has publicly stated that the country's doors are open to the exiles return. He indicated, however, that this statement might simply be an attempt to deceive the international public.

Gonzalez Casabianca Returns Home

PY292054 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 29 Dec 83 p 8

[Excerpt] Miguel Angel Gonzalez Casabianca, chairman of the Colorado Popular Movement [MOPOCO], a dissident faction of the National Republican Association [ANR], encountered no problems this morning when entering the country at Encarnacion, capital of the Department of Itapua, from Posadas, Argentina. Gonzalez Casabianca was welcomed in Encarnacion by representatives of the National Accord and then departed for Asuncion.

According to reports obtained by ULTIMA HORA from reliable sources, Gonzalez Casabianca arrived in the country by boat at approximately 1020 this morning and entered the country with no difficulties. In Encarnacion he was welcomed by leaders of the National Accord, a political coalition made up of the MOPOCO, the Febrerista Revolutionary Party, the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, and the Christian Democratic Party.

It was also reported that Colonel Enrique Jimenez, retired, will return to the country tomorrow in the same manner, and thus other leaders of the Colorado Party faction, who have been living in exilie in Argentina will follow.

URUGUAY

RADIO SUSPENSION MODIFIED TO 1-MONTH CLOSURE

PY291714 Paris AFP in Spanish 1436 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Montevideo, 29 Dec (AFP) -- The preventive suspension which was imposed on radio CX30 La Radio on 17 December was turned today by the government into a 1-month closure. This prompted La Radio's director, Jose German Araujo, to call off the hunger strike which he was holding as a sign of protest.

A governmental decree has authorized La Radio to resume its broadcasts, without any restrictions as of 17 January, but it was warned that if the transgression is repeated it would be closed for good.

OPPOSITION WEEKLIES SUSPEND PUBLICATION

PY291430 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Montevideo, 28 Dec (EFE) -- Three oppositon weeklies have decided to suspend their publications as a result of the press censorship carried out by the Uruguayan military regime.

The press censorship harshened this month with the sanctions imposed against the daily EL DIA, which was banned for three issues, and the weeklies BUSQUEDA (Independent) and LA DEMOCRACIA (Blanco Party), all issues of which were confiscated.

The so-called "gag operation" has been tightened because the government now reviews the publications before they are put into circulation, which means that the publishers lose money if their publications are banned.

The ESMACO [Joint Chiefs of Staff] reviewed today the issues of ORSAI and GUAMBIA (Humor), NOTICIAS (assorted topics) and BUSQUEDA and AQUI (political), all of which will appear tomorrow.

According to a government decree dated 2 August, the news media are not allowed to disseminate political information or make political commentaries. Under these circumstances, three weeklies that were to appear on Friday decided to suspend their publications for an indefinite period of time. The weeklies are JAQUE of the Colorado Party, LA DEMOCRACIA of the Blanco Party, which is headed by Wilson Ferreyra Aldunate, who is living in exile, and CONVICCION, which deals with union matters.